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Application No.: 09/996,663

Inventor(s): Daniel Raymond Cerone, et al.

Filed: November 29, 2001

Docket No.: 8794

Confirmation No.: 4856

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 09/996,663
Inventor(s) : Daniel Raymond Cerone
Filed : November 29, 2001
Art Unit : 3727
Examiner : Robin Annette Hylton
Docket No. : 8794
Confirmation No. : 4856
Customer No. : 27752
Title : Container Including a Slider, a Reclosable Fastener and a
Track Including a Ramp

REVISED APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

This revised Appeal Brief is filed pursuant to the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated November 9, 2006. The brief was filed pursuant to appeal from the decision communicated in the Office Action mailed on April 6, 2006.

A timely Notice of Appeal was filed on June 28, 2006.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is The Procter & Gamble Company of Cincinnati, Ohio.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no known related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 to 20 are rejected.

Claims 1 to 20 are appealed.

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A complete copy of the appealed claims is set forth in the Claims Appendix attached herein.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendment was filed.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

As provided in Claim 1, and using the reference numbers illustrated in Fig. 1, in one aspect the invention consists of a container 10 comprising a container body 12 comprising a first fastener portion 42 ; a cover 30 comprising a second fastener portion 44 adapted to engage the first fastener portion 42 to form a reclosable fastener 40 having a first end 53 and a second end 55, wherein the cover 30 defines an X-Y plane when the first fastener portion 42 and second fastener portion 44 are engaged; a track 46 comprising a track fastener portion 58 formed on the reclosable fastener 40 and a ramp 65 extending from the X-Y plane; and a slider 100 movable along the track 46 to open or close the reclosable fastener 40. See specification page 7, line 22 – page 10 line 18.

As provided in Claim 18, and using the reference numbers illustrated in Fig. 1, in one aspect the invention consists of a container 10 comprising a container body 12 comprising a first fastener portion 42 ; a cover 30 comprising a second fastener portion 44 adapted to engage the first fastener portion 42 to form a reclosable fastener 40 having a first end 53 and a second end 55, wherein the cover 30 defines an X-Y plane when the first fastener portion 42 and second fastener portion 44 are engaged; a track 46 comprising a track fastener portion 58 formed on the reclosable fastener 40 and a ramp 65 extending from the X-Y plane; and a slider 100 movable along the track 46 to open or close the reclosable fastener 40, and a location for parking the slider 100. See specification page 7, line 22 – page 10 line 18.

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As provided in Claim 19, and using the reference numbers illustrated in Fig. 1, in one aspect the invention consists of a rigid elongate reclosable fastener 40 comprising interlocking protruded and recessed portions 42, 44, the fastener 40 defining a plane comprising orthogonal X and Y dimensions when the portions are interlocked, a slider 100, and a track 46 for the slider 100, the track 46 including a fastener portion 58 formed on at least one of the interlocking portions and a ramp 65 extending from a first end 53 of the interlocking portions at an angle to the X-Y plane, wherein the slider is moved along the track to open or close the interlocking portions. See specification page 7, line 22 – page 10 line 18.

GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Rejection under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Hupp (WO 01/51378)

Claims 1-20

ARGUMENTS

1. Rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Hupp (WO 01/51378).

The Examiner rejects claims 1-20 as anticipated by Hupp (WO 01/51378). The Examiner acknowledges that the cited reference does not describe a ramp extending out of the plane formed by the engaged fastener and relies for the anticipatory teaching on a plan view of a container provided in the reference. Appellant is at a loss as to how a single plan view of an object can illustrate a feature said to extend from the plane illustrated in the view.

The Examiner provides that item 64 as shown in Fig. 2 of the reference extends from the plane formed by the engagement of the cover with the body of the container. Fig. 2 is a single planar view of an object. All the information communicated by Fig. 2 is

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provided in a single plane. The plane illustrated is that X-Y plane formed by the closed fastener of the illustrated container. The plane of the fastener and the plane of the figure are the same. The relationship of the elements within the illustrated plane is discernable. The relationship of the illustrated elements to the illustrated plane is not discernable from this single plane view. It is not possible to say from this single view that a particular element of the figure lies in the plane, out of the plane or extends from the plane. Similarly, it is not possible to discern from Appellant's Fig. 4 or Fig. 5, the relationship of elements 60 or 65 to the plane of the engaged fastener 40. However, Appellant's Fig. 5a and 5b clearly illustrate that element 65 extends from the plane of element 40. Fig. 1a shows that element 60 lies in the plane of element 40 rather than extending from it.

To anticipate a claimed invention, a cited reference must teach each of the limitations of the invention as claimed. The Examiner offers Fig. 2 as the only portion of the reference teaching a ramp extending from the X-Y plane defined by the engaged fastener of the invention. The cited figure lacks sufficient information to teach the relationship posited by the Examiner.

The Examiner admits that the written specification does not teach the invention as claimed and instead relies entirely upon the Figures for the anticipatory teaching regarding the ramp. The figures of the reference cannot be used to provide the requisite information lacking. The relationship of element 64, set forth by the Examiner as teaching a ramp extending from the plane of the engaged fastener, to the plane of the fastener is not illustrated. Appellant submits that as Fig. 1 does not illustrate an engaged fastener or the X-Y plane defined thereby. The relationship of the element 64 to an un-illustrated plane is not discernable. Fig. 2, as has been noted cannot provide the information suggested by the Examiner regarding the relationship. Fig. 3 does not illustrate element 64. Appellant submits that the rejection is not supported as the figures do not teach all of the elements of the invention as claimed. Element 64 is not illustrated as necessarily extending from the plane of the engaged fastener as claimed.

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SUMMARY

The cited reference fails to teach or suggest each of the elements of the invention as claimed. Specifically, the illustrations of the reference cannot be said to teach a ramp necessarily extending from the plane defined by the engaged fastener of the container. In view of all of the above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 USC §102(b) be overturned.

Respectfully submitted,

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY



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Date: November 17, 2006

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CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (Rejected) A container comprising
 - (a) a container body comprising a first fastener portion;
 - (b) a cover comprising a second fastener portion adapted to engage the first fastener portion to form a reclosable fastener having a first end and a second end, wherein the cover defines an X-Y plane when the first fastener portion and second fastener portion are engaged;
 - (c) a track comprising a track fastener portion formed on the reclosable fastener and a ramp extending from the X-Y plane; and
 - (d) a slider movable along the track to open or close the reclosable fastener.
2. (Rejected) The container according to claim 1, wherein the slider is movable in the track in a closing direction from the second end of the reclosable fastener to the first end of the reclosable fastener and is movable in the track in an opening direction from the first end of the reclosable fastener to the second end of the reclosable fastener.
3. (Rejected) The container according to claim 2, wherein the ramp is adapted for parking the slider after closing the reclosable fastener.
4. (Rejected) The container according to claim 2, wherein the track further comprises an auxiliary track extending from the second end of the reclosable fastener and adapted for parking the slider after opening the reclosable fastener.
5. (Rejected) The container according to claim 1, wherein the slider has a leading edge in the opening direction, the leading edge adapted to engage the cover at about the first end of the reclosable fastener to open the container.
6. (Rejected) The container according to claim 1, wherein the cover comprises a flexible lip extending from the reclosable fastener.
7. (Rejected) The container according to claim 6, wherein the slider is adapted to engage the flexible lip at about the first end of the fastener to initiate opening of the reclosable fastener.

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8. (Rejected) The container according to claim 7, wherein the slider engages an underneath side of the flexible lip forcing the cover to separate from the container body.
9. (Rejected) The container according to claim 6, wherein the ramp and the first end of the reclosable fastener define an angle therebetween, the angle sufficiently steep to allow the slider to engage the flexible lip at about the first end of the fastener to initiate opening of the reclosable fastener.
10. (Rejected) The container according to claim 9, wherein the angle is an acute angle.
11. (Rejected) The container according to claim 1, wherein the reclosable fastener comprises interlocking protruded and recessed elements, the protruded element is provided on the container body and the recessed element is provided on the cover.
12. (Rejected) The container according to claim 1, wherein the ramp has a radius of curvature at about the first end of the fastener.
13. (Rejected) The container according to claim 1, wherein the ramp extends linearly for a distance to allow the slider to be parked without interfering with the cover.
14. (Rejected) The container according to claim 1, wherein the reclosable fastener is sealable.
15. (Rejected) The container according to claim 1, wherein the reclosable fastener is adapted to fasten the cover around at least a portion of a perimeter of the container.
16. (Rejected) The container according to claim 15, wherein the portion of the perimeter defines a single plane.
17. (Rejected) The container according to claim 15, wherein the portion of the perimeter defines more than one plane.

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18. (Rejected) A container comprising:
- a cover comprising a first fastener portion,
 - a container body comprising a second fastener portion adapted to engage the first fastener portion to form a reclosable fastener having a first end and a second end, wherein the cover defines an X-Y plane when the first fastener portion and second fastener portion are engaged;
 - a slider slidably attached to the reclosable fastener and movable along the reclosable fastener to open or close the reclosable fastener; and
 - a ramp extending from the reclosable fastener at an angle to the XY plane and providing a parking location for the slider.
19. (Rejected) A rigid elongate reclosable fastener comprising interlocking protruded and recessed portions, the fastener defining a plane comprising orthogonal X and Y dimensions when the portions are interlocked, a slider, and a track for the slider, the track including a fastener portion formed on at least one of the interlocking portions and a ramp extending from a first end of the interlocking portions at an angle to the X-Y plane, wherein the slider is moved along the track to open or close the interlocking portions.
20. (Rejected) The container according to claim 6, wherein the ramp and the first end of the reclosable fastener define an angle therebetween, the angle sufficiently steep to allow the slider to initiate opening of the reclosable fastener.

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EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None

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RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None